

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 00764 131824Z

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ACTION ARA-10

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O 131750Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2875

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 0764

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), CS

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT: ATTENDANCE AT SAN JOSE
MEETING

FOR ASST. SECRETARY ROGERS AND ARA-LA/CEN

REF: SAN SALVADOR 0787

1. FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO INFORMED ME BY TELEPHONE FROM
SAN SALVADOR THAT PRESIDENT MOLINA'S TENTATIVE REACTION WAS
TO DECLINE PRESIDENT ODUBER'S INVITATION TO COME TO SAN JOSE
FEBRUARY 24. REASON GIVEN BY MOLINA TO FACIO IS THAT COUNTRY
IS PREPARING FOR ELECTION AND OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS HAVE
MADE AN ISSUE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT, DESCRIBING IT AS A SUMMONS
TO MOLINA TO COME TO ATTEND MEETING WITH SECRETARY WHERE
PRESUMABLY HE WOULD BE SUBJECT TO PRESSURES FOR SETTLEMENT OF
DISPUTE WITH HONDURAS. MOLINA SAID IF HE HAD BEEN ADVISED
OF PROPOSED MEETING BEFOREHAND OR CERTAINLY BEFORE PUBLIC
ANNOUNCEMENT MADE, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FIND WAY TO AVOID
THIS ISSUE, BUT DOUBTS THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO DO SO NOW.

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PAGE 02 SAN JO 00764 131824Z

FACIO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT HE MIGHT STILL BE ABLE TO CONVINCE

MOLINA TO COME. HE SAID IN ANY CASE HE INTENDED TO KEEP TRYING DURING THE REST OF HIS STAY IN SAN SALVADOR. FACIO CONFIRMED THAT IN ANY EVENT, FOREIGN MINISTER MAURICIO BORGONOVO WOULD ATTEND SAN JOSE MEETING.

2. FACIO ALSO STATED THAT HE FOUND LAUGERUD SO DISTRAUGHT AND OVERWHELMED BY CONSEQUENCES OF EARTHQUAKE THAT ALTHOUGH HE EXTENDED INVITATION, HE DID NOT PRESS. AS A RESULT, HE DID NOT GET A CLEAR AND FINAL ANSWER ON LAUGERUD'S ATTENDANCE. FACIO EXPRESSED OPINION THAT SINCE SECRETARY HAS DECIDED TO STOP OVER IN GUATEMALA, THIS MAY CONFIRM LAUGERUD'S INCLINATION NOT TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. HE WAS ASSURED IN ANY CASE THAT GUATEMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER ADOLFO MOLINA WOULD ATTEND.

3. FACIO SAID HE HAD ASSURED BOTH FOREIGN MINISTERS THAT THERE WOULD BE BILATERALS WITH THEM AS WITH PRESIDENTS OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

4. FACIO SAID THAT HE THOUGHT IT WELL FOR BILATERALS TO BE ARRANGED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER OF NAME OF COUNTRY, FIRST WITH PRESIDENTS AND HEAD OF GOVERNMENT (I.E., HONDURAS, NICARAGUA, PANAMA) AND THEN IN SAME ALPHABETICAL ORDER WITH FOREIGN MINISTERS OF EL SALVADOR AND GUATEMALA IF THE PRESIDENTS DO NOT ATTEND. TODMAN

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